

nectar which is difficult for smaller insects to obtain and have little smell as birds zero in by sight not scent.

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AVIFAUNA OF BLACK POINT—CAPE BEAUFORT AREA, S.W. AUSTRALIA

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I spent 22 and 23 April, 1976 investigating the avifauna of the Black Point-Cape Beaufort area. The Point and Cape are the S. and N. sides of a low (43 m) but conspicuous tessellated basalt tongue of land projecting from the coast, about 40 km S of Nannup, between Cape Leeuwin and Point d'Entrecasteaux. Nothing of the birds of this area appears to have been published before. Access to the Point is by four-wheel drive track, which is passable only between January and May. The area covered in this report is within a radius of 3 km of Black Point. During my visit the weather was fine and sunny.

The habitats available for birds are as follows.

1. Rocky seashore and sandy beaches on either side of the Point and Cape. Four plant species occur on the beaches: *Animophila arenaria*, *Spinifex hirsutus*, *Arctotheca populifolia*, and *Cakile maritima*.

2. Zone of salt tolerant plant species. Main species are *Salicornia quinqueflora*, *Sarcocolla repens*, *Apium prostratum*, *Carpobrotus rossii*, *Calcephalus brownii*, *Cotula* sp., *Lobelia alata*, *Poa australis*, *Threlkeldia diffusa*, *Scirpus nodosus*, *Sonchus oleraceus* and *Anagallis arvensis*.

3. Low heath on sand dunes, made up of thickets 1-2 m high. Main plant species are *Jacksonia horrida* (dominant), *Scirpus nodosus*, *Lepidosperma gladiatum*, *Olearia axillaris*, *Acacia decipiens*, *Boronia alata*. Further from the coast other species come in, the chief ones being *Agonis flexuosa*, *Cassia* sp., *Casuarina* sp., *Hibbertia cuneiformis*, *Sollya heterophylla*, *Lepidosperma angustatum*, *Spyridium globulosum*, *Leucopogon parviflorus*, *Xanthorrhoea preissii*, *Loxocarya flexuosa*, *Scaevola nitida*, *Muehlenbeckia adpressa*, *Acacia heteroclita*, *Dryandra cuceata*, and *Hibbertia* sp.

4. Swales near the coast contain *Juncus* swamp with odd clumps of a white-barked *Melaleuca*. Further inland thickets of *Oxylobium* sp., *Banksia littoralis* (flowering), to 5 m, and odd clumps of stunted Jarrah occur.

Further inland still swales contain *Agonis flexuosa* woodlands (trees

5-7 m) with understorey of *Macrozamia ricdlii*, *Rhagodia baccata*, *Pinclia clavata*, *Lcucopogon revolutus*, etc.

LIST OF BIRD SPECIES

Twenty-one bird species were found.

White-fronted Heron, *Ardca novaehollandiac*. One bird disturbed in a *Juncus* swamp.

Silver Gull, *Larus novaehollandiae*. Flocks of 20-30 birds follow fishing parties around the Point and Cape, and also congregate on beaches (Habitat 1).

Crested Tern, *Sterna bergii*. 16 were seen on a large basalt rock, 3 m high, 600 m W of Cape Beaufort.

Western Rosella, *Platycercus icterotis*. Two birds were seen in *Mcleuca* trees in Habitat 4.

Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*. About 20 birds were seen resting on, or flying over, Habitats 1 and 2.

Tree Martin, *H. nigricans*. One seen with Swallows near Black Point.

Pipit, *Anthus australis*. Three birds were seen singly on paths through the southern part of Habitat 3.

Splendid Wren, *Malurus splendens*. Common throughout Habitat 3; less common in Habitat 5. In small parties.

Emu Wren, *Stipiturus malachurus*. Very common in Habitat 3. In small parties.

Broad-tailed Thornbill, *Acanthiza apicalis*. Not as common as *Malurus*, *Stipiturus* or *Sericornis*. Found in Habitat 5 and taller portions of Habitat 3.

Spotted Scrub Wren, *Sericornis maculatus*. Commoner than *Malurus* in Habitats 3 and 5. Usually in pairs.

White-breasted Robin, *Eopsaltria georgiana*. Single birds seen or heard occasionally in Habitat 5 or in trees in Habitat 4.

Grey Fantail, *Rhipidura fuliginosa*. Found in pairs throughout Habitat 5 and occasionally in taller parts of Habitat 3.

Willy Wagtail, *R. leucophrys*. One seen briefly in Habitats 3 and 4 on 23 April.

Golden Whistler, *Pachycephala pectoralis*. Commonly seen or heard in Habitat 5.

Silvereye, *Zosterops gouldi*. Seen or heard in small flocks throughout Habitats 3, 4 and 5.

Spinebill, *Acanthorhynchus superciliosus*. Common in Habitat 3.

New Holland Honeyeater, *Phylidonyris novaehollandiac*. Very common in *Banksia littoralis* groves and *Oxylobium* thickets in Habitat 4.

Red-eared Firetail, *Zonaeginthus oculatus*. Two birds seen together briefly in Habitat 3 on 22 April.

Grey Butcher-Bird, *Cracticus torquatus*. Heard calling several times on both days in Habitat 5. This record is c. 40 km S. of the southern limit of the distribution of the species as recorded by Serventy & Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1967).

Raven, *Corvus coronoides*. Two briefly appeared on 22 April.

DISCUSSION

The area covered by this report is relatively undisturbed and should be more thoroughly investigated, especially to determine whether *Dasyornis brachypterus*, *Atrichornis clamosus* and *Psophodes uigrogularis* occur there or nearby. Several species that I would have expected to occur were not found. These include Sooty Oystercatcher, Rock Parrot, Kookaburra, Little Grass-bird and Reed Warbler. Visits during other times should determine whether these absences are permanent or not.